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NOTES OF THE WEEK

THE WEEK

The war clouds have burst in the Pacific. Japan has declared war on the United States and Britain. Japanese naval and air units have attacked the Pearl Harbour at Honolulu and Manila in the Philippines. Japanese landings in North Malaya are being hotly contested by the British Imperial forces but Thailand ceased resistance after five hours and a half of fighting and permitted Japanese troops to pass through. Great Britain and the Commonwealth, the United States, China, the Netherlands and most of the Latin American countries have taken up Japan's challenge and declared war on her.

Opinion in civilized countries has been outraged by Japan's sudden aggression even while her envoys were pretending to negotiate a peaceful settlement at Washington. President Roosevelt tried his best to preserve the peace in the Pacific and went to the length of addressing a personal appeal to the Emperor of Japan. It is a lengthy document in which he reviewed the situation which has been developing for some time in the Far East, with special reference to Indo-China. Such a situation, he said, could not continue. The peoples in the Philippines, the Dutch Indies, Malaya and Thailand could not sit down either indefinitely or permanently on a keg of dynamite. The message concluded with these words: "I address myself to Your Majesty at this moment in the fervent hope that Your Majesty, as I am doing, may give a thought to this definite emergency and to the ways of dispelling the dark clouds. I am confident that both of us, for the sake of the peoples not only of our own great countries but for the sake of humanity in the neighbouring territory, have a sacred duty to restore the traditional amity and prevent further death and destruction in the world."

One result of Japan's aggression has been the declaration of war by her Axis partners, Germany and Italy on the United States. The three Axis states have entered into a military alliance. Against them stand together the British Commonwealth, the United States of America, Russia and China (who has herself formally declared war on Germany, Italy and Japan). Hitler, in an address to the Reichstag this week, boasted that he had formed an unassailable front in Europe. But, speaking on the same day in the House of Commons, Mr. Churchill rightly claimed that the four great communities ranged against Hitler would soon teach a much-needed lesson to him and his partners in crime. The American Congress, after deciding to accept Hitler's (and Mussolini's) challenge, gave the Administration power to send American Expeditionary Forces abroad.

In Libya and in Russia the Germans are hard pressed. The hitherto victorious enemy has been forced on the defensive. British and Imperial troops have dealt firmly with enemy armoured formations in Libya and are pressing all along the ring inside which General Rommel's forces are contained. He tries to avoid a decisive battle by moving westward but his hope may not materialise. Meanwhile, the British have re-captured Sidi Rezegh, strengthened the link with Tobruk and mopped up enemy detachments in the quadrangle—El Adem, El Gobi, Sollum and Bardia.

Mr. Churchill announed in the House of Commons that General Sir Alan Cunningham, Commander of the British (Eighth) Army in Libya, had been granted sick leave and had been succeeded by Major-General Ritchie.

The course of Russian operations also gives room for guarded optimism. The Russians are not only able to continue their stonewalling

tactics of defence but have obviously used the respite afforded by the autumn weather to gather strength for counter-strokes. In the north they have re-taken Tikhvin, in the centre they are pressing back the Germans both at Kalinin and at Tula, and in the south they have recovered hundreds of square miles of territory and are in a position to threaten both Kharkov in the Ukraine and the German line in the Crimea.

A joint declaration of friendship and mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and the Polish Republic has been signed in Moscow —by MM. Stalin and Molotov for Russia and General Sikorski and M. Khot for Poland. Both States, jointly with Britain and other Allies, with the support of the U. S. A. pledge themselves to wage war until complete victory and the final destruction of Nazidom. Polish troops on Soviet territory will fight hand in hand with Soviet troops. In peace-time their relations will be based on good-neighbourly collaboration, friendship and mutual honest observance of the undertakings assumed by both the parties. After the victorious conclusion of the war and the appropriate punishment of the Hitlerite criminal, it will be the task of the Allied States to ensure a durable and just peace, which can only be achieved through a new organization of international relations on the basis of unification of the democratic countries and durable alliance. Respect for international law, backed by collective, armed force, will be the decisive factor in such an organization.

Meanwhile, Great Britain and the Commonwealth have now declared war on the Axis Satellites, Finland, Rumania and Hungary, who had refused to stop their aggression against the Soviet Union.

The extension of the benefits of the Lease-Lend Act to Turkey, announced by President Roosevelt last week, is welcomed in Ankara as a friendly gesture, showing that the United States has understood correctly the developments of recent months in the Turkish foreign policy. The President's declaration now gives Turkey priority rights without which she has been unable to buy even non-military materials in the United States and she is now able to buy for her own industries also. It is expected that Mr. William Bullitt, President Roosevelt's special representative to the Near East, will visit Ankara. And it has been authoritatively stated that American Lease-Lend supplies to the Middle East will not be affected by the war in the Pacific. "Business as usual" is to be the motto.

Launchings in the United States shipyards will, for the first time, total one per day this month. The United States Maritime Commission predicts that the ultimate objective of two per day will be reached by the middle of next year. This rate will be continued "until the emergency need is met." The Commission in its long-range building programme anticipates completion of over 1,200 ships of approximately 13,500,000 tons by the end of 1943.

NAVAL LOSSES IN THE FAR EAST

As stated earlier, Great Britain and the United States have, owing to Japan's premeditated treachery, suffered heavy initial losses. The naval balance in the Far East has been tilted against the Democracies by the loss in action of the British battleships *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse*. These two were attacked by Japanese torpedo-bombers off the North Malaya coast and sustained direct hits. Before going down they accounted for seven enemy aircraft. Admiral Sir Tom Phillips, Commander-in-Chief of the Far Eastern Fleet is missing but luckily more than 2,300 sailors were saved.

Sister shop to King George the Fifth, the *Prince of Wales* was launched in 1939 and was completed after the war began. She had a displacement of 35,000 tons, a speed of over 30 knots, most modern equipment and a normal complement of 1,500. It will be recalled that she carried Mr. Churchill for the famous meeting with President Roosevelt at which the Atlantic Charter was drawn up. Previously, she had participated effectively in the action which culminated in the sinking of the German battleship *Bismarck*.

The *Repulse* was a battle cruiser belonging to the *Renown* class, with a displacement of 32,000 tons and a complement of 1,200 men. She was completed in August 1916.

The loss of these two battleships is a grievous loss at the present juncture, for they would have been a match for anything the Japanese could have sent against them but the latest published information shows that Britain has still 19 battleships afloat or building. *H.M.S. Lion* and *H.M.S. Temeraire*, 40,000-monsters are to be completed in 1943 and two sister ships the following year and after all the immense warship programme which the United States launched since the end of the naval limitation era has put her in a very powerful position to maintain a long war. Her main force already comprises 17 battleships, and in shipyards 15 are being completed. Any gaps that may be made in the fighting line in the early weeks of hostilities will be speedily made up by new construction.

American warships will soon be steaming to Malaya and Philippines where the main land battles must take place and the Japanese navy, which maintains temporary superiority and performs the important task of convoying Japanese troopships to Malaya and Thailand, will soon have to reckon with the American Navy.

And Japan, in her turn, has lost her crack liner *Haruna* of 29,000 tons with a complement of nearly 1,000 men. She was set on fire and sunk off the Philippines by American aircratf. And Japan has lost a cruiser, a destroyer, a number of submarines and three troops-transporters.

That Britain's confidence in the Royal Navy has not been shaken is evident from the first reactions of prominent public men to the loss of her two battleships. A member of the Cabinet said :" It has always been the British tradition to hear and receive hard news as a spur and as an indication of the gravity of the tasks lying before us and in that spirit we accept it to-day." Another Minister said : " The setback will in no way weaken in the smallest degree our confidence but will strengthen the will-power and the determination of the nation." Lord Chatfield, former First Lord of the Admiralty and Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence, said : " Considering the tremendous modern methods of war, we may consider ourselves blessed by Providence that we should only have lost three battleships in three years."

The citizens of Edinburgh, who have collected £12½ million for the Warships Week, have decided to replace the two battleships.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S CALL TO THE NATION

In a fireside chat to the nation on Tuesday night, President Roosevelt warned his countrymen that the war which had broken out in the Pacific " will not only be a long war, it will be a hard war." He said that the casualty list of the first few days would be large and that the American people must be prepared for the announcement that Guam, Wake and Midway Islands had been seized, but he rejected the Japanese claims that they have gained naval supremacy in the Pacific. The President's speech which only underlined his earlier message to Congress said : " We must begin the great task before us by abandoning once for all the illusion that we can ever again isolate ourselves."

The President said that the United States Government had known for weeks that Germany " has been telling Japan that if Japan did not attack the United States, Japan will not share in the spoil." He added that Japan was promised perpetual and complete control of the whole of the Pacific area, including " the strangle-hold of the west coast of North, Central and South America." He said that Germany and Japan were conducting military and naval operations, according to a joint plan. President Roosevelt added : " Remember always that Germany and Italy, regardless of any formal declaration of war, consider themselves at war with the United States this moment. Germany puts all the other republics of the Americas in the category of enemies." America expects to eliminate the danger to the world from Japan but " it will serve us ill if we accomplished that and found that the rest of the world was dominated by Hitler and Mussolini." All continents and all oceans are now considered by Axis strategists as one gigantic battlefield.

Mr. Roosevelt, like Mr. Churchill, had no illusions about the arduous nature of the task facing the Democracies but he was equally confident of the ultimate outcome.

" The United States can accept no result save victory, final and complete," said the President. " Not only must the shame of the Japanese treachery be wiped out but the sources of international brutality, wherever there exist, must be finally broken. We shall need and demand money and materials, doubled and quadrupled, and prodction ever-increasing. We must realize that Japanese success against the United States in the Pacific will be helpful to German operations in Libya and any German success in the Caucasus will inevitably be of assistance to Japan. We are going to win the war and we are going to win the peace that follows."

MR. CHURCHILL ON THE WAR

The position of Britain, the United States and her Allies following the Japanese declaration of war was reviewed by Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons on Thursday.

Starting with the position in Libya, Mr. Churchill said : " The Libyan ocensive did not take the expected course but General Auchinleck set out to destroy the entire armed forces of the Germans and Italians. Now it seems very probable that he will do so. From the viewpoint of drawing weight from the vast Russian front, the continuance of the fighting in its severity is not to be regarded as an evil. The first phase is over. The enemy has been swept out of positions which barred our western advance. Tobruk is definitely disengaged. Substantial British reinforcements and fresh troops are close at hand." In the Battle of the Atlantic, the Prime Minister said that November fully maintained the great recovery of the previous four months. Paying a tribute to Russia's " glorious steadfastness ", Mr. Churchill said : " German losses have been immense. The Russians now have regained definite superiority in the air over large parts of the front. Although our position has changed in important ways, not all favourable, we must faithfully and punctually fulfil the very serious undertakings we have made to Russia." Mr. Churchill continued : " The Japanese onslaught has brought upon the United States and Britain very serious injuries to our naval power. I cannot remember a naval blow so heavy as the sinking of the *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse*. The naval power of Britain and the United States is still largely superior to the combined forces of the three Axis powers. For the next few months at any rate, we must expect that the volume of American supplies reaching Britain and the degree of help given by the United States Navy will be reduced."

Concluding, the Prime Minister said : " Naturally, I should not be prepared to discuss the resulting situation in the Far East and in the Pacific or the measures which must be

taken to restore it. It may well be that we shall have to suffer considerable punishment but we shall defend ourselves everywhere with the utmost vigour and in close co-operation with the United States and the Netherlands Navy. The naval power of Britain and the United States was very greatly superior, and is still largely superior, to the combined forces of the three Axis powers. But no one can underrate the gravity of the loss which has been inflicted in Malaya and Hawaii or the power of the new antagonist who has fallen upon us, or the length of time it will take to create marshal and mount a great force in the Far East, which will be necessary to achieve absolute victory. We have a very hard period to go through and a new surge of impulse will be required, and will be forthcoming from everybody. We must faithfully keep our engagements to Russia in supplies and, at the same time, must expect, at any rate for the next few months, that the volume of the American supplies reaching Britain and the degree of help given by the United States Navy will be reduced. The gap must be filled and only our own efforts will fill it. I cannot doubt, however, now that 130 million people in the United States have bound themselves to this war, the flow of munitions and aid of every kind will vastly exceed anything that could have been expected on a peace-time basis. The British Empire, the United States, Russia and China are fighting for life. Behind these four great combatant communities are ranged all the spirit and hopes of all conquered countries in Europe, prostrate and under the domination of the foe. It would, indeed, bring shame upon our generation if we did not teach him a lesson which will not be forgotton in the records of a thousand years."

UNITED STATES PLANS TO DEFEAT NAZIS

Before the United States was forced into a war against the Axis, something like a sensation was caused in America by the publication in an Isolationist newspaper *The Chicago Tribune* of a confidential letter written by President Roosevelt to the Joint Army-Navy Board and the report drawn up by the Board in reply to the President. Mr. Roosevelt's letter, dated July 9, asked for a report on "overall production requirements required to defeat our potential enemies." The Army-Navy Board's report, dated September 11, stated as America's major objective "complete military defeat of Germany" and pointed out that an inconclusive peace would merely give Germany time to reorganize. The report advocated material support of the present military operations against Germany and their enforcement by active participation in the war by the United States while holding Japan in check pending future developments. The report said that at the present time the chief democratic strength, except for Russia, lay in naval and air power. Since only land armies are likely to win wars, effective strategic offensive methods other than an early land offensive in Europe must be employed, such as continuation of the economic blockade, prosecution of land offensives in distant regions while German troops can expend only a fraction of the total strength, air and sea offensives against Germany's resources and support of subversive activities in occupied territories. The report then classified the projected American operations into three phases, firstly, to assure delivery of supplies, second, active participation with Britain and other nations fighting the Axis, and third, the final defeat of Germany. The report continued that before any offensive against Germany could be taken, the Nazis must be driven from Norway and also predicted that by next July the Russian armies would be driven behind the line stretching from the White Sea to the Volga River. (As late as September the American War Department was pessimistic about Russian resistance but has since altered its view in the light of better information.) The Army-Navy Board further considered a land invasion of Germany possible by July 1943, but the Army and Air Intelligence Department disputed this, adding that if an air offensive was successful there might be no need for a land attack on Germany.

However, the United States Secretary for War, Mr. Stimson, at a press conference, denounced as "wanting in loyalty and patriotism" the publication of what purported to be a secret army plan for an American Expeditionary Force to Europe. Mr. Stimson said that the documents which the *Chicago Tribune* published represented "unfinished studies of our production requirements for national defence, which have been carried on by the General Staff as part of their duties in this emergency." He added, "They have never constituted an authorized programme of the Government. While their publication will doubtless be of gratification to our potential enemies, it will be a possible source of impairment and embarrassment to our national defence. The chief evil of their publication is the revelation that there should be among us any group of persons so lacking in appreciation of the danger that confronts the country and so wanting in loyalty and patriotism to their Government that they would be willing to take and publish such papers."

WAR ON AXIS SATELLITES

Great Britain is now at war with Finland, Hungary and Rumania. She sent notes to these three countries, informing them that if they did not cease hostilities with the Soviet Union, they would be considered as enemies. All of them rejected the ultimatum with the result that, from the midnight of the 7th December, a state of war exists between Great Britain and these three countries. What is surprising is that Finland should have embarked upon the invasion of the Soviets beyond her 1939 frontier. There is a good deal

of sympathy for her in America and Great Britain but the adhesion of Finland to the Anti-Comintern Pact had widened the breach between that country and the Democracies. M. Rangell, the Finnish Prime Minister, did more than hint that the argument that Finland was fighting for the security of her frontiers might carry her beyond the old frontiers. American disapproval is certainly very bitter to the Premier but there was no alternative to the Democracies but to take the step they have taken. Of course, Finland does not like the course she is pursuing and Finns realize that there are serious dangers in the policy they have laid down for themselves but the trouble is that Finland, as well as Rumania and Hungary, is not a free agent but is bound to the German chariot-wheels. This declaration of war on these three countries, perfectly logical in the circumstances, may not have any direct military significance. Two things, however, have got to be remembered. One is that such a declaration is a demonstration that Great Britain is solidly behind the U. S. S. R. and the second is that, as stated in the British note, Geat Britain would be forced to treat Finland as an open enemy, not only while the war lasts but also when peace comes to be made.

GERMANY'S NEW ORDER

The " New Order " of Germany is, as everybody knows, nothing but a reversion to the rule of force that prevailed during the darkest periods in the Middle Ages—oppression, terrorism and slavery. Germany has utterly failed to keep up the pose of a crusade against Russia. The " New Order ", which makes so many satellites running round Germany, can only be sustained by force. The following account of what is happening in these countries is a fair sample of the kind of regime that may be expected in the " New Order " :

Czechoslovakia.—Savage reprisals have been taken against Czech students. Some who were already in prison have been killed while 8,000 have been sent to Germany for forced labour. Numerous executions for possession of arms and " economic sabotage " take place every day.

Poland.—On 10th October, 20,000 Jews from the Reich were deported at 10 minutes' notice to Poland. The Gestapo is forcibly transferring 9 million Poles from the western provinces, which have been incorporated in the Reich, to districts in Central Poland, while continual man-hunts in Central Poland secure forced labour to work in German factories. Eighty-two thousand people have been killed and dive-bombers too, have been used to disperse the Polish guerilla fighters.

Norway.—Prisons in Oslo and the suburbs are packed to the limit and people are sent to the concentration camps for refusing to part with their tents, bedsheets and blankets, which the Germans need for their soldiers on the Russian front. Executions for sabotage and mass arrests for economic disturbances are a regular feature of the Nazi Commissar, Terboven's rule in the country.

Holland.—The death penalty has been instituted for listening to B.B.C broadcasts and the people have been advised to eat raw food so that the Germans may take away the fuel. A forced loan has been instituted and heavy fines are imposed on an already starving population. The police have been ordered to fire on people who flock to the bakeries for food.

Belgium.—Belgian patients have been moved out from hospitals in Brussels, Ghent and Antwerp and now lie in the streets to make room for German wounded from the Eastern Front.

France.—Frenchmen are still being executed in considerable numbers for sabotage and possession of arms. Some 75,000 French labourers have been taken away to Germany " in order to banish unemployment in France."

Greece.—In Crete, villages have been plundered and burned and refugees fleeing for safety have been murdered. People have been forced to dig their graves before being executed. A hundred thousand Greeks have been driven from Eastern Macedonia. Some 15,000 were killed when a motorised division exterminated 6 villages as a reprisal for the death of 19 Bulgarian soldiers.

Serbia.—At Karlavatz, 700 men were shut up in cattletrucks for 8 days without food and drink. At Banalika, where 12,000 Serbians lived, not one is left to-day. In revenge for local sabotage, the town of Dabec has been razed to the ground. The number of people massacred on October 12 is estimated at about 340,000. Stuka dive-bombers are playing havoc in Serbian towns. Uzici has been completely destroyed.

Croatia.—Continued massacres in Croatia have led to a general exodus to Serbia where there are now half a million refugees. The Germans have threatened to destroy Belgrade by shell-fire as a reprisal for guerilla activity.

THE RUSSIAN WAR

All along the battle front the Russian troops are asserting themselves more vigorously than ever. They have re-captured the important railway centre of Tikhvin, north-east of Leningrad; the Germans are still trying their utmost to isolate the latter! On the Moscow front, the Germans have not only been able to make headway but have let it be known that they are giving up their idea of taking Moscow during the winter. Of course, they blame the extremely cold weather but it is Russian valour and determination that mainly turned the scale! In a week's continual fighting at Volokolamsk, north-west of Moscow, the Germans lost over 10,000 men killed or wounded. The Russians have launched a vigorous counter-offensive in Kalinin, north

of Moscow, and have thereby strengthened their positions on the Volga; at Tula, south of Moscow, the Germans have found their pincers movement beaten off and the Russians taking the offensive and regaining control of the highroad to Moscow. The Russians have re-captured Elets, due east of Orel, in the Moscow sector, routing two German infantry divisions and inflicting 12,000 casualities on the Germans. In the south, the Germans admit that their defences have been broken through on the southern sector of the Rostov front and at the approaches to Taganrog. The Russians are advancing in the Donetz Basin and have taken the mining town of Matveyev. On the eastern bank of the Miuess river which runs to the Sea of Azov, the Russians have retaken Kuibyshevo and are now pressing back the Germans on the southern front along the shore of that sea, desperate Nazi counter-attacks having failed. Hundreds of square miles of Russian territory have been liberated from the Germans, who are now purely on the defensive and have even reported Russian attempts to land on the west coast of the Crimea. It is too early to say that the Germans will give up the idea of taking Moscow and re-capturing Rostov during the winter but the Russians may well be expected to beat them off.

BRITISH PROGRESS IN LIBYA

Authoritative quarters in London state that the second phase of the Battle of Libya is nearing its end. The first phase consisted of preliminary moves and the second dealt with enemy armoured formations. Of these there is now only an isolated detachment east of the line from El Gobi to Tobruk. The eastern half of the Tobruk perimeter has been cleared of the main enemy forces, the German tank columns retiring westward after a series of running fights. The whole area north of Capuzzo Road is also practically clear of the enemy, the British seizing large quantities of material, ammunition and supplies. Patrols from Tobruk have again firmly linked up with the main British forces. In a hundred-mile long quadrangle between El Adem, El Gobi, Sollum and Bardia, only straggling parties of Germans and Italians are to be seen. As we confidently expected last week, the British have not only completed the capture of El Duda but have re-taken Sidi Rezegh and El Adem. It looks as if General Rommel is trying his best to avoid the now almost inevitable full-scale battle which would decisively go against him. The British forces containing his forces are pressing continuously; he has also been forced to realize the extreme difficulty of obtaining supplies. How long he can hold out without trying conclusions on a big scale remains to be seen! Meanwhile the Royal Air Force takes a heavy toll of his supplies, continuously bombs his bases both in Libya and in Italy and shoots down relentlessly such Axis aircraft as make their appearance in the sky. In one day's battle alone, 22 enemy planes were shot down in air combats in Libya. There is undoubtedly heavy fighting in score but the British Imperial troops—the Indians have particularly distinguished themselves in attacks on Rommel's armoured divisions—are now well placed to tackle any German attempt to break through. "The centre of gravity," said Major Lewis Hastings in a B.B.C. commentary on December 3, "shifts continually," but a striking feature of the operations is that they are still taking place within the strategic framework designed by General Cunningham. The struggle is still conditioned by the aims of the British advance at the beginning of the attack. "These were to outflank and paralyse the whole frontal defensive system of the Axis and to force battle within the area bounded by these defences and the Tobruk sally." In three weeks a great deal has been achieved, though General Cunningham has had to take sick leave owing to over-strain and has been succeeded by Major-General Ritchie. (1) General Rommel has lost his advance supply bases and aerodromes. (2) His offensive power has been seriously impaired. (3) His strong posts between Sidi Omar and Sollum are being reduced, and many of his coastal defences are isolated. These successes have not been achieved without very hard fighting, nor was it ever expected that they would be. General Rommel is known as a personal friend of Hitler and a fanatical Nazi, and it is probable that he has received orders to fight to the last bullet and the last drop of petrol. Outflanked as he has been, he has, indeed, no alternative between such a course and capitulation. The peculiar nature of desert tank-warfare, however, is such that (as at sea) an advantage of armament and numbers can be contrived at particular points by even a hard-pressed enemy who can alter his local dispositions under cover of darkness. This operates in places to the benefit of a concentrated defending force where, as in this case, it is virtually surrounded by forces disposed over a very wide area. As soon as the weather clears the battle will flare up again, and unless the Axis can successfully run the British aerial, naval and land blockade, General Rommel's resistance must find a limit. His supplies and reinforcements are all important, and it is good news that an Axis tanker, which tried to get about 10,000 tons of oil to Sollum, was sunk with its escort without loss to ourselves.

WHEAT AND THE WAR

Mr. Hudson, the Minister for Agriculture, forecast in September 1941, a record wheat harvest in Britain. Chief among the factors that have helped British agriculture have been the mobilization of the Women's Land Army, and the increase in acreage under the plough, roughly four million acres since the war began. Lord Woolton, Minister for Food, chimed in with the above sentiments when about the same time he said "Our greatest safeguard is bread" and later added that Britain has bigger stocks of wheat than ever before in the history of the country. In the wreckage of the

most terriffic *blitz* not a single town ever went short of bread. On November 12, Mr. Churchill summed up the position. While the food situation in general gave good ground for reasonable optimism, the corn harvest of this year was 50 per cent greater than in 1939. What has secured England's grain position and exploded Axis propaganda is the special step taken by the Ministry of Food for putting through "the biggest warehousing scheme in the world." Every kind of building has been skilfully adapted for stocking food which in peacetime used to be stored in warehouses in the ports. An equally bright picture is presented by the other members of the British Commonwealth. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa recently estimated that the total carry-over of wheat this year is by far the largest amount ever carried over from one crop year to the next. This year's figure exceeded the previous year's by 179,610,226 bushels. The official forecast of the Australian wheat crop predicts a yield of 5 per cent above average. In the United States of America, Mr. Claude Wickard, Secretary for Food, has aptly summed up America's attitude towards food: "Food will win the war and write the peace." On October 9, Mr. Wickard said that America would "furnish the amount of food necessary to take care of about one-fourth of the population of Britain." To achieve this a drastic scheme of agricultural reorganization has been put through and the "ever normal granary for the ever normal food supply" is rapidly assuming substance. The United States now has 400 million bushels of wheat carried over from last year. This year's crop, the fifth largest in history, will add 913 million bushels more to the carry-over. Let us now look at the enemy's supply. Europe's food-producing areas have suffered seriously and in several ways. The war has drained off many farm workers; mass flights of refugees, and waves of Nazi-compelled migration, have drained off thousands more. Bombs, battles, defensive inundation have devastated acres of crops, tons of stores. As the Nazi jack-boot tramps across Europe, the rigid Nazi system of food priorities is ruthlessly enforced. The army first, then skilled workmen in Germany, German civilians, then the new subjects of the Nazis, with prisoners, the insane, Poles and Jews at the bottom of the list. The most authoritative pronouncement regarding the German harvest was made by Dr. Darre, the Minister of Agriculture, in August last year. He said that the German harvest "is only 2 per cent below normal but Germany's bread supply is secured for a long period." But the manner in which "Germany's bread supply is secured" may be judged from the following examples:

(1) The *Volkrecht* (Switzerland) of September 1940 reported that fields of wheat in France are reserved for the Germans by swastika signs. About 300,000 tons of wheat were removed to Germany from occupied France.

(2) Dr. Dalton stated in the House of Commons (2nd August 1940) that Norway had in hand a year's supply of cereals and there was no doubt a large part of the stocks had been removed to Germany. A subsequent announcement that German military authorities had "bought" the grain confirmed the suspicion.

(3) "All grain for the whole of Europe has to go to Germany to be apportioned to the various countries. During the transaction the white flour manages to stay behind in Germany." (John Raynor, B.B.C. talk, 30th November 1941).

(4) In Rumania, one of the greatest wheat-producing countries in Europe, food is rationed and since May of this year bread riots have been frequent.

(5) In April this year Germany fathered wheat agreements between Russia and Norway, and between Russia and Belgium. This blatant piece of cynicism was undertaken to keep the hungry quiet. In June Germany declared war on Russia.

(6) While the number of grammes of bread permitted for the members of the Greater Reich is higher than that allowed in Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Poland and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, it is less than the figure allotted for people in France and Norway.

GERMAN CYNICISM

Not only does Germany plunder ruthlessly in the occupied countries and use food-shortage as a weapon of domination. She has also found the subject of value in propaganda of the most cynical and often self-contradictory kind. To distant countries she harps on her unlimited reserves, as in a German broadcast to South America: "Enormous reserve stocks of all essential foodstuffs exist in Germany." At the same time she recently made a public declaration that she was not obliged to see to the feeding of the people who were the victims of her power. In almost the same breath she dismisses the British blockade as entirely ineffective and condemns it (for American listeners) as inhuman. The Dutch, laments Dr. Goebbels, are being starved by Britain, yet "many lines of produce are being sent to Germany from the Low Countries" (Zeesen broadcast, December 1940). It will be remembered that the Germans are adepts at converting foodstuffs into materials for armaments. Maize and potatoes can be converted into power alcohol and acetone, beans into casein for plastics, fats into glycerine (for explosives) and varnish.

In July of this year an International Wheat Conference was held in Washington. Mr. Welles said that in another year wheat surpluses totalling 1½ million bushes would hang

over the international markets; something more than talk was necessary to give the soldiers of peace full stomachs. The United States Government would suggest for all Governments to ponder over and give effect to the following points. Price-pegging of all major crops; accumulation of surpluses; Government encouragement of "basic crops." The goal for each Government is more consumption for the eventual establishment of a higher international standard of living.

WHEAT SITUATION IN INDIA

Two steamers have been allocated to bring to India 16,000 tons of Australian wheat, which will fully replace the 15,659 tons of Indian wheat shipped urgently to Iran, where the ill-conceived policy of the former autocratic Government had caused widespread wheat-shortage and acute distress. At the same time the Government of India, by preventing wheat prices from soaring above their already abnormal level, are endeavouring to check the bullish tendency in the market caused by irresponsible speculation. It should be reiterated that India has not been the only, nor indeed the chief exporter of wheat to relieve acute shortage in Middle Eastern countries. More wheat has been sent from Australia and North America than from India, and in the case of Iran, Russia also has played her part. The choice of India to meet the most immediate needs was due to her geographical position and to questions of speed and shipping facilities. The British Food Ministry, at the Indian Government's request, has now decided not to purchase any more wheat in India this year. The appointment of a Wheat Controller is under active consideration by the Government of India. The following facts appear to be insufficiently known.

(1) It is not rations for Indian troops in the Middle East that are provided from the food resources of India. These indigenous items of foodstuff are what the troops would normally consume in this country. Their export, therefore, has no effect on supply questions or market-rates in India.

(2) The cost not only of these rations but of all rations despatched to theatres of war is debitable to His Majesty's Government, and is not paid by the Indian public, but by the most heavily-taxed people in the world, the British.

(3) Australia continues to despatch food for both the British and Dominion troops in the Middle East, and no differences have ever arisen in this respect.

THE FLARE-UP IN THE FAR EAST

AMERICAN DECLARATION OF WAR

Following the receipt of a message from President Roosevelt, the United States Senate voted a War Resolution by 82 votes to 0 and the House of Representatives by 388 to 1, the solitary one being that of Mr. Rankin.

President Roosevelt has signed the resolution which runs as follows :—

"Whereas the Imperial Japanese Government has committed unprovoked acts of war against the people of the United States of America. Therefore be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled that a state of war between the United States and the Imperial Japanese Government, which has thus been thrust upon the United States, is hereby formally declared and the President is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on the war against the Japanese Government and bring the conflict to a successful termination; all of the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The following is the text of Mr. Roosevelt's message :—

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States was suddenly and deliberately attacked by the naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor, looking towards the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American islands of Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message and while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of an armed attack. It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

"The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu. Yesterday, the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hongkong. Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands. Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island and this morning, the Japanese attacked Midway Islands.

"Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive, extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and to-day speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and will understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

"As the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defence, but always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us. (Applause.) No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory. (Cheers and applause.) I believe that I interpret the will of Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us. (Applause.)

"Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger. With confidence in our armed forces, with unbounding determination of the people, we will gain inevitable triumph, so help us God. (Applause and cheers.) I ask Congress to declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack on the United States on Sunday, December 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire." (Prolonged cheers.)

MR. CHURCHILL'S STATEMENT

Loud cheering greeted Mr. Churchill's arrival in the House of Commons on Monday afternoon, which was renewed when he said: "As soon as I heard last night that Japan had attacked the United States, I felt it necessary that Parliament should be immediately summoned. It is indispensable to our system of Government that Parliament should play its due part in all important tasks and at all the crucial moments in the conduct of war.

The following points in the Prime Minister's speech may be noted :—

(1) " With the full approval of the Nation and the Empire, I pledged the word of Great Britain about a month ago that should the United States be involved in a war with Japan, British declaration of war would follow within the hour. I therefore spoke to President Roosevelt on the Atlantic Telephone last night with a view to arranging the times of our respective declarations. The President told me that he would this morning send a message to Congress, which naturally can alone make a declaration of war for the United States and I then assured him that we would follow immediately. However, it soon appeared that British territory in Malaya had also been an object of Japanese attack and later it was announced from Tokyo that the Japanese High Command—not the Imperial Japanese Government, but the Japanese High Command—had declared that a state of war existed between Japan and Great Britain, and the United States. That being so, there was no need to wait for a declaration by Congress."

(2) " As the American time is nearly six hours behind ours, the Cabinet which met at 12-30 to-day, authorized an immediate declaration of war upon Japan. Instructions to this effect were sent to His Majesty's Ambassador in Tokyo and a communication was dispatched to the Japanese Charge d'Affaires at 10 o'clock to-day to this effect : ' On the evening of December 7, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom learned that Japanese forces, without previous warning or an ultimatum with a conditional declaration of war, had attempted a landing on the coast of Malaya, and bombed Singapore and Hongkong. In view of these wanton acts of unprovoked aggression, committed in flagrant violation of international law and particularly Article 1 of the Hague Convention relative to the opening of hostilities, to which both Japan and the United Kingdom are parties, His Majesty's Ambassador in Tokyo has been instructed to inform the Imperial Japanese Government in the name of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that a state of war exists between the two countries.' "

(3) " Hostilities have already begun. The Japanese began landing in British territory in Northern Malaya at about 1 o'clock (local time) yesterday and they were immediately engaged by our forces, which were in readiness. Home Office measures against Japanese nationals were set in motion at 10-45 last night. The House will see, therefore, that no time has been lost and we were actually ahead of our engagements."

(4) " The Royal Netherlands Government at once marked their solidarity with Great Britain and the United States at 3 o'clock this morning. The Netherlands Minister informed the Foreign Office that his Government were telling the Japanese Government that in view of the hostile acts perpetrated by Japanese forces against two powers with whom the Netherlands maintained friendly and close relations, they considered that as a consequence a state of war now exists between the Netherlands and Japan."

(5) " I do not know what part Siam (Thailand) will be called upon to play in this fresh war but a report has reached us that the Japanese landed at Singora in Siamese territory on the frontiers of Malaya, not far from the landing they have made on the British side of the frontier. Meanwhile, just before Japan had gone to war, I sent the Siamese Prime Minister the following message early yesterday (Sunday) morning : ' There is a possibility of an imminent Japanese invasion of your country. If you are attacked, defend yourselves. The preservation of the full independence and sovereignty of Thailand is a British interest and we shall regard an attack on you as an attack on ourselves.' "

(6) " It is worth while looking for a moment at the manner in which the Japanese have begun their assault upon the English-speaking world. Every circumstance of calculated and characteristic treachery was employed against the United States. The Japanese envoys Nomura and Kurusu were ordered to prolong their mission in the United States in order to keep the conversations going while a surprise attack was being prepared to be made before a declaration of war could be delivered. The President's appeal to the Emperor, which doubtless many members have read—it has been largely published in papers here—reminding him of ancient friendship and the importance of preserving peace in the Pacific, has received only this base, brutal reply. No one can doubt that every effort to bring about a peaceful solution has been made by the Government of the United States and that immense patience in face of the growing Japanese menace has been shown."

(7) " So precarious and narrow was the margin on which we then (after Dunkirk) lived that we did not dare to express the sympathy which we all along felt for the heroic people of China. We were even forced for a short time in the summer of 1940 to agree to the closing of the Burma Road. But later, at the beginning of this year, as soon as we could recover our strength, we reversed the policy and the House will remember that both I and the

(Continued on page 20)

THAILAND

KINGDOM OF THE FREE

[We are indebted to *Oriental Affairs* (edited by Mr. H. G. W. Woodhead, C.B.E., Shanghai), for the following account of Thailand] :—

By a decree issued by the Council of Ministers on June 24, 1939, the name of the Kingdom of Siam was changed to Thailand, or Muang Thai, "the Kingdom of the Free." The State then had an area of 198,247 square miles and an estimated population of some 14,500,000. It is so located as to form a buffer State between French Indo-China and Burma, save for a short strip of territory on the upper reaches of the Mekong. Thailand's extreme southern border is contiguous with that of British Malaya, across the Malay Peninsula. The intergrity of the kingdom was guaranteed by the British and French Governments in April 1904.

The Thai people originally lived to the north of the Yangtze in Szechwan. In the course of centuries they drifted through Yunnan Province (where some of their descendants are still to be found), to Burma and Siam, where in the 12th to 13th centuries they supplanted the aboriginal population. The people were mostly agriculturists, and though both climate and soil favoured farming, the extreme heat and humidity robbed the race of much of its vigour.

The first foreigners to start trading relations with Siam were the Portuguese, who arrived on the scene about 1518. They ingratiated themselves with the Siamese by aiding them in their wars with Burma in the latter part of the 16th Century. The Dutch arrived about 1598, followed by the British, in 1612. The first Treaty signed with any Europeans was in 1664, with the Dutch East India Company. The truculent attitude of the Netherlanders, however, lost them the favour of the Siamese, with whom their trade lapsed after 1706.

In the latter half of the 17th Century the country was ruled by an astute Monarch named King Phra Narai, who kept all trade in his own hands, and who used as his agent for all dealings with Foreign Powers a Greek adventurer, Constantine Phaulkon. His Capital was Ayudhia. Some Japanese, chiefly victims of religious (anti-Christian) persecution had arrived about 1620, and by the time the French appeared on the scene in 1662 Siam had become an important centre and clearing house for trade between China, Japan, Sumatra and India.

The first Frenchmen to arrive were members of a Roman Catholic Mission sent to the Far East to convert the Asiatic peoples. They had the support of Louis XIV, and also of the Greek, Phaulkon. Twenty-five years later six French warships and 1,400 French troops, intended to act as mercenaries for the King of Siam, arrived. French garrisons were established at Bangkok, Mergui and Ayudhia, ostensibly to protect Siam from the Dutch and the British. The undue zeal of the Catholic Missionaries, however, who attempted to convert King Phra Narai himself, led to a serious revolt among the nobility. Phaulkon and three possible successors to the Throne were killed; King Phra Narai, who was on his death-bed was allowed to pass away. The French troops were thereupon withdrawn, and it was not until the early part of the nineteenth century that diplomatic relations were re-opened with European States.

In the meantime there had been a change of Dynasty. A war between Burma and Siam in 1759–1767 resulted in the sacking and burning of Ayudhia in the latter year. A period of disorganization, during which several aspirants for power entered the field, resulted after five years in the ascendancy of Phya Tak, a Chinese military leader, who re-established the independence of Siam, and transferred the Capital to Dhonburi, a section of modern Bangkok. He did not himself found a Dynasty, but paved the way for the Chakri Kings, who reigned as absolute Monarchs from 1782 to 1932. Of the earlier rulers the most noteworthy was Mongkut, who should have succeeded his father, Phra Buddha in 1824. The Throne, however, was seized by his half-brother, and Mongkut retired to a Buddhist Monastery where he came into contact with the newly arrived American Missionaries, and from them learnt English, Latin and the rudiments of Western science. When he eventually came to the Throne in 1851, Mongkut proved to be an enlightened ruler. He regulated Siam's foreign relations by Treaties, encouraged commerce, and fostered Western educational ideas, even going so far as to engage an Englishwoman to live in the Palace, and tutor his heir, Chulalongkorn, as well as other royal children. Chulalongkorn, who reigned from 1866 to 1910 under the title of Phra Chula Chom Lao, was one of Siam's greatest historical figures. Under his rule the old feudal system was gradually abandoned, and a civil service was organized for the administration of the nation; slavery was abolished; the judicial system was revised; taxation was reformed; a postal service was established; railway construction was started; and public gambling was placed under control. His enlightened policy, however, did not prevent a clash with the French, who were anxious to expand their territories in Indo-China at Siam's expense. The French blockaded Bangkok in 1893, demanding large concessions, and garrisoned portions of Siam until 1905. When peace was finally restored,

and the integrity of what remained of Siam was guaranteed by France and Great Britain, Siam remained an independent State, but had lost nearly half her territory.

Chulalongkorn travelled extensively, visiting the Straits Settlements, Java, India and Europe, and becoming so impressed with Western knowledge that a number of Princes were sent to Europe to complete their education. All his successors received part of their education in Europe. But the result of this policy was that modern learning was mainly restricted to the Princes and nobility who held most of the higher offices in the Government, and this apparent nepotism was later to be the main factor in bringing about a revolution.

Chulalongkorn's son, King Vajiravuch, who reigned from 1910 to 1925 was noted for his artistic and literary tastes. He introduced a number of reforms, including the establishment of the Boy Scout movement, the adoption of a new Calendar, a national system of education, and compulsory vaccination. His successor was King Prajadhipok, a younger brother, who occupied the Throne from 1925 until his abdication in 1935. His death, near Virginia Water, in England took place on May 30, 1941.

POLITICAL UPHEAVALS

King Prajadhipok began to move towards constitutional government as soon as he ascended the Throne. One of his first acts was to appoint a Supreme Council of State, to act as an advisory body, and a Committee of the Privy Council was established in 1927. He introduced such reforms as the establishment of wireless and aviation services, and concluded Treaties which gave Siam full fiscal autonomy in 1927. The balancing of the Budget in 1926–27 was achieved partly by an extensive reduction in the number of Government officials, which was to be another source of discontent.

The revolution of June 1932 took the nation and the outside world completely by surprise. It began at 5 a.m. on June 24, with the seizure of the Capital by military forces, and the arrest and detention of some forty Ministers and high officials, who were escorted to the Throne Hall. King Prajadhipok at the time was staying in his Summer Palace at Hua Hin, and to him an ultimatum was despatched by three Colonels, announcing that the administration of the State had been taken over by the People's Party and that a number of members of the Royal Family were being held as hostages, and demanding the return of the King to the Capital to reign as a constitutional monarch. Failing acceptance of their demands the leaders threatened to appoint another Prince whom they considered efficient to act as King. Replying to the revolutionaries the following day, the King announced his willingness, in order to save useless bloodshed, "to co-operate in the establishment of a Constitution under which I am willing to serve." He gave as a further reason for compliance, the danger that if he declined to remain in office as King, recognition of the new Government might be withheld by the Foreign Powers.

Although the change from an absolute to a constitutional Monarchy was thus peacefully achieved, the revolutionaries circulated a leaflet, accusing the King of nepotism, of employing dishonest officials, and of treating the people as slaves or even animals.

The ultimatum to the King was signed by three military officers, but the ringleaders of the revolt also included several civilians. They were: Luang Pradist, who had obtained a Doctorate of Laws in France, and was Secretary of the Department of Legislative Redaction; Bahol, second in command of the Siamese Army, who had received his military education in Germany; Phya Sing, who had also served in the German Army and later became a Professor in the Educational Section of the Siamese forces; Phya Riddhi, an artillery officer; Luang Pibul, who had served in the French Army; Phra Prasasana, who had been educated in Germany and Switzerland and was head of the Military Training School; Chao Phya, a former Minister of Public Instruction and a Privy Councillor; Phya Manopakorn, Chief Judge of the Appeal Court; and Nai Charoen, a talented lawyer, who had been in prison for his revolutionary activities in the former reign.

What were the causes of the revolution? According to Dr. K. P. Landon's book, "Siam in Transition" from which much of the above information is taken, the immediate cause was news that thirteen expensive Diesel locomotives had been purchased by Prince Purachatra for use on the Siamese State railways, although the country was at that time in the throes of acute economic depression. Contributory causes enumerated by the same authority as a result of investigation and inquiry on the spot included:—

1. The preference shown by King Prajadhipok for members of the Royal Family in the selection of Ministers. (Eight out of twelve Ministries were headed by Princes, whose rank placed them above the law.)

2. The secretive policy of the administration, especially in regard to the causes of economic depression.

3. The rigid censorship over the Press and Radio.

4. The dismissal of so many subordinate officials, and the imposition of a salary tax, which hit officials more than any other group.

5. Opposition by travelled and educated Siamese to an absolute Monarchy.

The regime that came into office as a result of the revolution suffered from a lack of experienced administrators and political leaders, making it necessary for it to rely in a large measure upon members of the old Civil Service. A Provisional Constitution was accepted by the King on June 27, 1932, and on December 10, following a visit of the leaders of the People's Party to the King three days previously to ask pardon for any "lack of respect" shown to him during the revolution, a Permanent Constitution was accepted in a Ceremony at the Throne Hall.

The early months of the new Constitutional Government were beset with difficulties. Luang Pradist's economic policy of taking over the land and paying the farmers to cultivate it was denounced as Communistic, and the first Government lasted only until March 31, 1933. On June 20, 1933, there was another military revolt, headed by Colonel Phya Bahol, ostensibly for the purpose of reconvening the Assembly of People's Representatives, which resulted in the resignation of the Phya Mano Government, which had succeeded that of Phya Manopakorn, and the accession to power of Colonel Phya Bahol himself. In October 11, 1933, there was a Royalist rebellion, headed by Prince Bavoradej, former Minister of Defence.

The Prince, at the head of the forces that he had mustered at Korat and Ayudhya, marched on Bangkok, denouncing Phya Bahol as an autocrat at the head of an oligarchy that had violated the spirit of the Revolution.

Martial law was proclaimed in the Capital, a large reward was offered for the capture of the Prince and his associates, and the King was informed that he would be protected during the suppression of the revolt which was effected by the 18th. Though some of the ringleaders were sentenced to death or life imprisonment, they were in reality treated with extraordinary leniency. In the following December the first elections to the People's Assembly took place. Phya Bahol continued to hold the Premiership for another four years.

Early in January, 1934, despite the opposition of the State Council and the People's Assembly the King left Siam to undergo an operation on his eyes in America. In Sumatra he and the Queen had a reunion with a number of exiled Princes and Princesses. He was expected to return to Siam in the following October, but during his absence three pieces of legislation dealing with the Penal Code, which displeased him, were approved by the Assembly, and rumours of his impending Abdication began to spread. A delegation, consisting of the Chairman of the People's Assembly, the Secretary-General of the State Council, and a Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs was sent to England, where he was residing, to plead for his return. It was unsuccessful. On March 2, the King signed a letter of Abdication, in which he complained that administrative power had been monopolized by the People's Party, which ignored the voice of the people, and persecuted political opponents. His abdication was received with expressions of sorrow, and the Assembly agreed to invite Prince Ananda Mahidol, then a ten year old boy at school in Switzerland, to become King. During his minority the Regency was to be exercised by Princes Adityaib-abha and Anuvatna Caturanta, and Chao Phya Yomaraj.

The young King returned to Siam for a brief visit and a Coronation ceremony on November 15, 1938, and was greeted with enthusiastic professions of loyalty. When he sailed for Europe again on January 13, 1939, more than 300,000 of his subjects lined the banks of the River Chao Phya to witness his departure. King Prajadhipok, as already stated, died near Virgina Water a few months ago. The young Monarch, now sixteen years of age, is still in Switzerland. The Government has continued to be carried on by the State Council, the People's Assembly, and the Courts of Law, and to remain chiefly in the hands of military men.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Throughout the revolutionary period the Siamese were most careful to avoid incidents which would give any Foreign Power an excuse for intervention. At the end of 1937 revised Treaties which gave Siam full and equal rights as an independent nation were signed with Britain, France, Germany, Italy and America.

Siam's relations with Japan undoubtedly have grown closer since, in March, 1932 the Siamese Delegation at Geneva abstained from the vote condemning Japan's actions in Manchuria. The first diplomatic instrument signed between the two countries was a Declaration of Amity, concluded on September 26, 1887, during a visit to Japan of the Siamese Foreign Minister. A Japanese Legation was established in Bangkok in 1897 and a Treaty of Commerce was concluded in 1898. In 1924 Japan and Siam concluded a revised Treaty, under which extra-territorial rights were abandoned. A new Treaty of Navigation and Commerce signed in 1937 conceded full liberty to Japanese to reside in Siam on the same footing as native subjects. An Air Service agreement was concluded in November 1939, and on June 12, 1940, the two Governments concluded a Treaty in which each undertook to respect each other's territorial integrity, to exchange information and consult each other on matters of common interest, and to refrain from aiding any third Power which attacked the other. Since then official Japanese publications (e.g., the *Tokyo Gazette*) have referred to Thailand as a "new Ally."

A Non-Aggression Pact was signed with Great Britain in June 1939, but a similar Pact with France was never ratified.

The Siamese never forgave the French for their later annexations of Thai territory, and the collapse of France in 1940 afforded them a heaven-sent opportunity for recovering it. It is still uncertain whether the Thai Government moved with the previous concurrence, or even at the instigation, of the Japanese Government. After hostilities had been in progress for some time, however, Japan insisted upon adopting the role of mediator, and, in March, 1941 induced both parties to arrive at an agreement under which some 25,000 square miles of Indo-China territory were retroceded to Thailand.

In July 1941 the Vichy Government was coerced into permitting Japan to occupy naval, military and air bases in Southern Indo-China, on the pretence of joint defence against intended British and Chinese invasion. About the same time it was reported that pressure was being applied to Thailand to agree to a similar arrangement upon its territory. At the time of writing the phenomena usually preceding each fresh act of Axis aggression are much in evidence. Thailand is represented as being in danger of " attack " by Great Britain, as part of a plot to " encircle " Japan. So far the Thai Government has shown no inclination to admit Japanese troops into its country, but it has given sops to Japan by arranging for a credit of 10,000,000 *baht* with a Siamese banking syndicate, and agreeing to recognize Manchukuo.

Thailand has of recent years become an important producer of rubber, rice and tin ore. The latest statistics (for 1939) gives its production of rubber as 53,584 metric tons; of rice as 4,423,700 metric tons, and of tin ore as 16,700 tons. Until recently the bulk of Thailand's trade was with the British Empire and the Netherlands East Indies. In 1938, however, of total imports valued at 46,000,000 *baht*, Japan was responsible for 22 millions. Japan, however, in that year took only some 6 millions worth out of a total of 77 million *bahts'* worth of exports.

CHINESE IN THAILAND

Until as recently as 1888 China claimed that Siam was a tributary State. Chinese estimates place the number of Chinese in that country at 3,000,000, but Siamese estimates are much lower, owing presumably to exclusion from reckoning of all but Chinese of unmixed parentage. The Chinese, however, form the largest alien element in the population, constituting one-fifth according to some estimates, and about one-tenth, according to others. Curiously enough they remain without diplomatic or consular representation, or any kind of treaty rights. Though on the whole a peaceable community, they have from time to time resisted, and even rioted against, Siamese legislation. By many Siamese they are disliked as the " Jews of the East," because of their superior trading ability, and their " racial loyalty." The Chinese problem in Thailand has become more acute since immigrants have been accompanied by their own wives and children, and thus become less assimilable, and attempts have been made to restrict further immigration by the levy of progressively higher immigration taxes. The policy of the Thai Government towards Chinese is thus summed up by Dr. K. P. Landon in his recent work, " The Chinese in Thailand."

> " In its dealings with the Chinese the Thai Government has reduced immigration, has forced Thai education upon Chinese in Thailand, is diminishing as rapidly as possible their important commercial position, and is attempting to destroy or at least control their secret commercial and political societies. The two races, Thai and Chinese, are playing out their historic drama. The Thai cannot now abandon home and field and move Southward to escape. This, then, is their last stand in a centuries-long contest. They are apparently devising a technique of living with the Chinese while maintaining Thai supremacy in the Thai national home."

WAR COMES TO THE PACIFIC

JAPAN'S CALCULATED TREACHERY

Japan has taken the plunge. She has cast her lot with Germany and Italy and the war (as Major Alan Murray, the B.B.C. commentator says) is in its truest sense a world war to-day. Every continent and every ocean is now engaged in a war to the death against world domination by the Axis powers. This has come about (in Mr. Churchill's words to Parliament announcing that Great Britain has taken up the challenge) by " calculated and characteristic treachery " on the part of Japan. The Japanese High Command gave orders to their bombers to attack American and British naval bases in the same breath in which their envoys at Washington were declaring their readiness to continue the negotiations for settlement.

It is now evident that Japan's intention all along has never deviated from her ambition to be top-dog in the Far East and the Pacific Ocean. That is why the Japanese were not interested in the proposals for a pact of non-aggression contained in Mr. Cordell Hull's note. That is why they pretended to negotiate and even give President Roosevelt what Mr. Hull was forced to call " infamously false and fraudulent " excuses for increasing their troops in Indo-China, on Thailand's border. This is familiar Axis technique and need cause no surprise. But as President Roosevelt, in his call to Congress to declare war on the aggressor, said, " the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory " and " will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us." The President had every justification for his indignation. He had tried every honourable means to keep the peace in the Pacific and had even made a last-minute appeal to the Emperor of Japan to curb his Generals.

Why has Japan thus cast to the winds every vestige of decency and honour? Again, Mr. Churchill with his innate shrewdness has laid his finger on the spot; Hitler's madness has infected the Japanese mind. Finding that he has lost the Battle of Britain, that the British forces in the Middle East are now strong enough to take the offensive and that his armies in Russia are moving deeper and deeper into the morass, Hitler has persuaded the Japanese militarists to throw in their lot with his and create a diversion in the Far East. They were more than ready to fall in with his wishes. Their previous adventures in aggression had already laid them open to the most severe economic pressure from the A.B.C.D. powers. They were certainly not prepared to check their high-vaulting ambition to overrun Eastern Asia and bring it into what they have been pleased to call the " Co-Prosperity Sphere."

And there is no denying that Japan has scored some initial successes. When a smash and grab raid is carried out, we expect to have our windows smashed and must expect to suffer some damage. The British Prime Minister has also warned us that " it is of high importance that there should be no underrating of the gravity of the new dangers we have to meet. The enemy has attacked with an audacity which may spring from recklessness but which may also spring from a conviction of strength ". Japan will be no mean foe. She is made up of an extremely dangerous mixture of fanaticism and progress and will take some beating. Her navy is powerful and up to date and she has prepared for this adventure by accumulating large stocks of supplies. The combined forces of the A.B.C.D. Powers and of Russia are strong enough to blast Japan's ambitious plans but we must not expect a quick victory over such a formidable opponent.

POWERS TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE

That these powers are determined to take up the challenge was evident on the morrow of Japanese aggression :

(1) Mr. Churchill announced in Parliament that Great Britain had informed the Japanese Government that a state of war existed between the two countries in view of " the wanton and unprovoked " attacks on Malaya, Singapore and Hongkong, " committed in flagrant violation of international law and particularly Article 1 of the Hague Convention to which both Japan and the United Kingdom are parties."

(2) The United States Congress approved President Roosevelt's request to declare war on Japan in view of her " unprovoked and dastardly attack " on the Hawaiian Islands and other United States possessions. The Senate voted unanimously for war and only one Pacifist voted against 388 supporters of a war-declaration in the House of Representatives. Isolationism is as dead as a dodo. The United States is fully in the war.

(3) Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, S. Africa and other parts of the Empire followed suit and, like Britain and America, took steps against Japanese nationals and property in their respective territories.

(4) The Royal Netherlands Government informed the Japanese Government that, in view of the hostile acts perpetrated by Japanese forces against two powers with whom the Netherlands maintained friendly and close relations, a state of war existed between the Netherlands and Japan. The Netherlands Indies Navy steamed into Singapore to join up with the British.

(5) All Latin American Republics promptly aligned themselves with the Democracies against Japan. Most of them declared war, others adopted " non-belligerency."

(6) China formally declared war upon Japan and rapidly threatend Canton and the rear of the Japanese troops attacking the British outpost at Hong Kong.

(7) Free France also declares war on Japan.

If we weigh up all the pros and cons, the dice is heavily weighted against Japan in the long run. She has, however, scored some striking initial successes before the Great Democratic Powers got ready to strike :

(1) Japan's air force—presumably based on aircraft-carriers—bombed America's bastions in the Pacific, viz., Pearl Harbour, Guam and the Philippines. President Roosevelt announced that the attack on the Hawaiian Islands had caused severe damage to American naval and military forces and that many American lives were lost. The United States of America admitted the loss of an old battleship, one destroyer and a large number of planes in Pearl Harbour. Other vessels were damaged. On the other hand, several Japanese planes and four submarines were accounted for, and a Japanese aircraft-carrier sunk off Honolulu.

(2) Japanese aircraft attacked Singapore, claiming the destruction of two cruisers. But it is revealed that the great Naval base sustained no damage and only civilian causalties were caused.

(3) Japanese troops made daring attempts at the invasion of the Malayan Peninsula, their objective being Kota Bharu, an important rail-head; but the Royal Air Force broke up enemy troop transports, causing them to flee, and those troops that had been landed were picked off by the British Imperial troops in Malaya. Fighting is, however, reported further south.

(4) The Japanese landed troops at Pattani in the Gulf of Siam, 60 miles to the north of the Britain border. Japanese ships shelled Bangkok, the Thailand capital. After resisting for five hours and a half, the Thailanders ceased resistance and agreed to allow the passage of Japanese troops through their country.

(5) The Japanese occupied Gnam Island but their attempts to take Wake Island were beaten off with the loss of one cruiser and one destroyer.

(6) Japanese torpedo-bombers sank the British battleships *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* off the North Malayan Coast. But the balance was somewhat restored by the sinking of the Japanese battleship *Haruna* by American aircraft off the north coast of the Philippines.

Our immediate interest is in the struggle in Malaya and in the defence of Burma now that Thailand has given way to the aggressor. The Malayan coast is full of mangrove swamps and is one long stretch of sandy beach and it would be difficult for the Japanese to make much headway. The land-routes from the north—from Thailand to Malaya—are but three very narrow ones, all being heavily protected by Indian and Australian troops. The other approaches offer no threat to Malaya and Singapore, being only footpaths following deep ravines and dense forests. And Malaya's (and Burma's) air and fleet arms are now so well organized by Air Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham that any big success for the Japanese Navy or air force might be ruled out.

"Annalist," the well-known military commentator, also says that out of the multitudinous assaults with which Japan began the war, and with due regard to the uncertainty of all news, Singapore begins to emerge as her main objective. Hence—after the temporary advantage of a surprise attack on Pearl Harbour which cannot be repeated—the attacks on the American chain of stations westwards across the Pacific, the Midway, Wake, Guam and the Philippine Islands. The American Army should be able to hold the Philippines when it has destroyed the huge local Japanese Fifth Column accumulation of many years, but Japanese possession of the Carolines and the Marshalls further increases the risks of a voyage from Hawaii to Singapore. The southern route, however, through the Islands of New Guinea, though much longer, should be easy enough. Naval strategy keeps its own secrets but it would certainly seem that the American Navy's position must be to unite with the British Navy at Singapore. From that secure and ample base, the Allies could bottle up Japanese ships in the Gulf of Siam and gradually extend their operation up a well-known highway to cut Japan's communications with Indo-China and Thailand, now her main sources of various essential commodities. This the Japanese must at all costs prevent and since a sea assault on Singapore is scarcely practicable, it becomes a race between the Japanese Army and the American Navy to reach Singapore. The loss of Thailand, though not unexpected, is serious. The report that Japanese warships have been sighted around the Aleutian Islands suggests another attempt to shut out reinforcements reaching the Far East rather than a menace to Canada. The Aleutians are an important link for American aeroplanes flying to the Russian territories of Kamchatka, Northern Saghalien and the Maritime Provinces, where the use by the Allies of Russian aerodromes would strike terror in Japan.

"JUSTICE" OF THE JUGGERNAUT

EUROPE UNANIMOUS AGAINST THE NEW ORDER

Fourteen months ago—Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop—began hawking a new 'line'. Italy and Japan had obligingly signed the Three-Power Axis Pact. A Protocol to this document was now ready for the signatures of lesser fry. This collection of autographs was to signify the birth of Hitler's "New Order for Europe" which was to endure, so the Fuehrer said, for a thousand years. *In face of the resultant "United Front" against Britain, the Allied cause was intended to look hopeless and the ground for a "Peace Offensive" would be prepared.*

It took Ribbentrop five months to get four signatures—Hungary, Rumania, Slovakia and Bulgaria. Sweden, Switzerland, Spain and Turkey stood aloof. Norwegians, Danes, Dutchmen, Belgians, Frenchmen, Poles, Czechs, Austrians, Albanians, Yugoslavs and Greeks were not consulted. They were already united—by a common bond of slavery. They were all Germany's prisoners; their assent was therefore given by proxy.

The world was not impressed by Ribbentrop's showmanship. This *ersatz* picture of peace and prosperity in the shadow of the Gestapo looked too good to be true. The world was more ready to believe Churchill's words:

> *"In every country into which the German armies and Nazi police have broken there has sprung up from the soil a hatred of the German name and a contempt for the Nazi creed which the passage of hundreds of years will not efface from human memory."*

Fourteen months have passed and Ribbentrop tries again. This time an Anti-Comintern Meeting is held in Berlin to demonstrate how happy the European family is under Nazi tutelage and how Europe's united strength is to be pitted against the wicked neighbours who live in London and Moscow. *But the smiling front is a mask held in place by naked and repressive violence. Ribbentrop admits it.*

Dive-bombers have already been in action in the Balkans and Poland to quell the activities of guerillas and saboteurs who refuse to accept the "New Order". Eighty-two thousand Poles have been murdered in two years of "peace". More than a quarter of a million Serbs have been massacred since the German occupation of Yugoslavia. Tanks have been in action in Greece, where a motorised division exterminated six villages in reprisal for the deaths of 19 Bulgarian soldiers. . . . The list has no end.

From Narvik to Nantes, from Stavanger to Salonika, rifle shots crack as Nazi firing squads impose the "justice" of the juggernaut....Resistance smoulders even in Italy; for every Italian soldier serving on the Eastern Front there are four German soldiers stationed south of the Alps. Mr. Eden draws attention to the fact that there are no Polish, Czech, Norwegian or Dutch divisions in action on the Eastern Front....On the other hand, Poland now has an air force twice as big as that which was crushed two years ago. Her airmen fly with the Royal Air Force. She has a growing army of liberation....Her soldiers have been fighting in the Middle East and will soon go into action in Russia.

THE SOMBRE MOOD: THE MINOR KEY

The internal situation in Germany, Russia's continued and valiant resistance and Britain's fine offensive in Libya have all shaken up Dr. Goebbels rather badly. *The braggart no longer can hope to dope his listeners with bombast. The tone is humble, apologetic, explanatory, and evasive.* The need to whip up enthusiasm has pushed the hardpressed doctor into his ancient well-worn device—the baiting of Jews.

RUSSIA

" As soon as the two immediately essential objectives are reached (the Don and Moscow), the German armies may either continue the offensive, or if the Fuehrer considers it more opportune create a sort of line constituting a solid barrage against the rest of the Soviet Union. It is only fear that impels Stalin to resist. *The Fuehrer's statement of October 3, that the Eastern campaign is already decided must not be construed in the sense that Stalin may be forced to surrender or capitulate. It* has a much deeper significance." (*Italian radio, November* 1941 *quoting a German General.*)

LIBYA

" As for the Libyan campaign the time is not yet ripe for a detailed statement." (*German broadcast to England, 21st November* 1941.)

" It is intended to encourage Stalin, intimidate Japan, impress Turkey, support Roosevelt, neutralize Vichy, help de Gaulle. . . . . .all this explains Churchill's onslaught but cannot justify it from a military point of view." (*Italian news in English, 22nd November* 1941.)

" Churchill said the British forces had been preparing for five months, this is enough to give an idea of the exceptional importance of this campaign." (*Italian news in English, 22nd November* 1941.)

THE JEWS

" Why will not the British and the Russians admit that they are defeated as the Fuehrer said they were? The Jews are responsible."

" Every German soldier killed in this war must be debited to the Jews."

" The Jews are only longing for a chance to reward our simple-mindedness with blood and terror."

" The Jews have instigated and brought about this war."

" Even Gandhi is helping to safeguard the Anglo-Jewish clique." (*German broadcast of Goebbels talk, 14th November* 1941.)

THE AXIS SPEAKS—AND IS ANSWERED

Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East

FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 22–29, 1941

STUKAS AND SWASTIKAS

"Never before has Europe been so at one in the pursuit of a common aim. By alleging that the great meeting in Berlin was to serve some peace aspiration, etc., the democratic politicians only prove that they lack the "*courage*" to face the fundamental fact—namely the formation of a united Europe." (*German news in English, 25th November* 1941.)

Ribbentrop has blustered to the world that "The tank and the dive bomber preclude the possibility of a revolt in the disarmed territory". The Turkish *Ulus* writes:—"The Conference, in Berlin cannot be given the name of a Conference of European countries. . . . . . . .nations fighting against Russia are not prepared to take the responsibility on their shoulders of the war against Britain".

Ribbentrop offers a mutilated Europe the chill-down-the-spine consolation of a Thirty Years' War. Has he the "*courage*" to face the results of the mass murder of 200,000 Serbs in Croatia, and 82,000 Poles?

"The Danish Foreign Minister stated that the Danish Government has realized the threats to its culture and social order. As a natural consequence of this policy, Denmark has decided to act on Germany's invitation to sign the Pact." (*German news in English, 26th November* 1941.)

The first four months of German occupation in Denmark cost the country £40 million. This the Government was asked to explain away under the euphemism: "indebtedness". It cost the Minister of Commerce his job when he tried to lecture the people on the intracacies of this finance. The attitude of the people in general was editorially bemoaned in the Danish *Nazi Faedrelandet*: "It is impossible to understand why so many people including the many well educated, still believe that England must win".

"75,000 tons of wheat will shortly be sent to Finland from Germany. Germany has already sent 50,000 tons of wheat to the Finns." (*Italian news in English, 24th November* 1941).

From where and for whom is the wheat? According to the *Volksrect* of September 24, 1940, the Germans had removed from occupied-France 800,000 tons of wheat. And on the day pseudo-pathetic appeals for Poland were being launched by Germany to America, the Nazi Gauleiter Greiser ranted that in 1940 one Polish district (Warthegau) exported 700,000 tons of wheat to Germany. Why are the Finns still hungry?

MENACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

"The British blackmail the Iraqi Government. It shows once again that England really does not protect the freedom and independence of smaller nations. All England ever desired in Iraq was the country's exploitation for selfish British interests." (*German news in English, 22nd November* 1941.)

Britain's record in Iraq has been honourable and is therefore beyond German comprehension. In 1932 Britain recognized Iraq's independence and procured her admission to the League as a full member. During the mandatory regime Iraq's administration was organized, her army was trained; the irrigation system was improved; oil resources were developed; when the smudge of the Rashid Ali episode had been removed Iraq was accorded the rights of a treaty-partner. Improvement in the transport and communication system has brought money to her treasury and employment to her citizens.

" It is reported that 165 German passengers arrived in Istanbul yesterday from Afghanistan. While they were in Peshawar, the British forcibly took away all their belongings." (*German news in Hindustani, 26th November* 1941.)

The enemy subjects were relieved of unnecessary quantities of tinned food, furs and clothing which they intended to import into a starved Germany. They were allowed to keep their personal goods which amounted to 60 tons deadweight.

ROOSEVELTIANA

" It is officially announced from Washington that a contingent of U.S. forces will be sent to Dutch Guiana. . . . . . .Roosevelt is now pursuing his imperialistic policy and no longer feels compelled to hide it." (*German news in Hindustani, 25th November* 1941.)

Gerbrandy, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, said over the radio on November 24, that U.S. co-operation was necessary to nip Vichy's vicious propaganda in French Guiana **and Nazi activities elsewhere in South America. The Netherlands Government of their own accord invited the United States of America to co-operate with them in the protection of the bauxite mines in their territory. Brazil, the neighbour of Guiana, is also co-operating in its protection.**

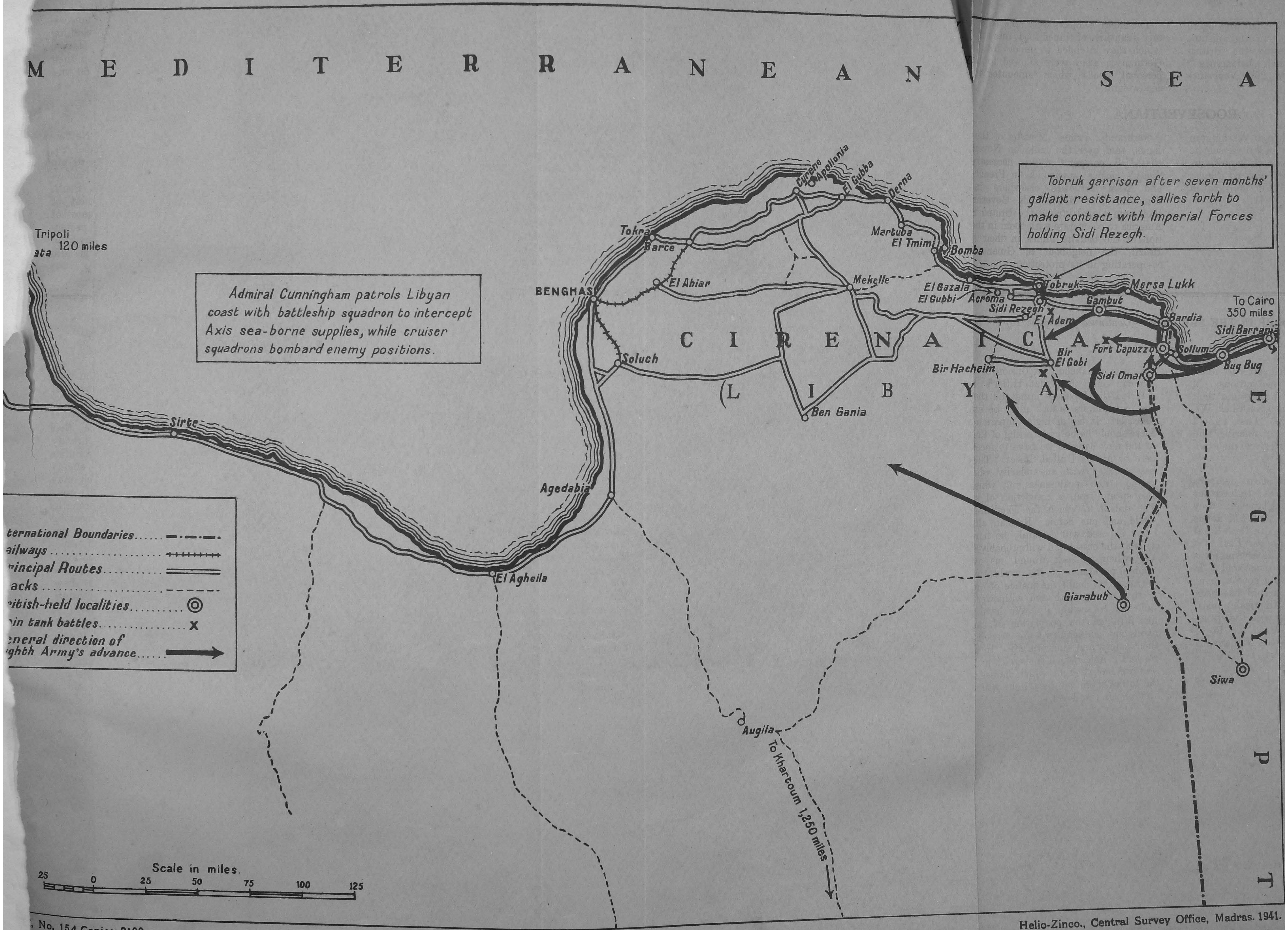
THE FLARE-UP IN THE FAR EAST—(*Continued from page* 10)

Foreign Secretary have felt able to make increasingly outspoken declarations of friendship for the Chinese people and their great leader, Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek. We have all along been friends. Last night I cabled to the Generalissimo, assuring him that henceforward we would face the common foe together."

(8) " Although the imperative demands of war in Europe and Africa strained our resources, vast and growing though they are, the House and the Empire will notice that some of the finest ships in the Royal Navy reached stations in the Far East at a very convenient moment. Every preparation in our power has been made and I do not doubt that we shall give a good account of ourselves. The closest accord has been established with powerful American forces, both naval and air, and also with the strong and efficient forces blonging to the Royal Netherlands Government in the Netherlands East Indies. We shall do our best."

(9) " When we think of the insane ambition and insatiable appetite which have caused this vast melancholy expansion of the war, we can only feel that Hitler's madness infected the Japanese mind and the root of the evil and its branch must be extirpated together. It is of high importance that there should be no underrating of the gravity of the new dangers we have to meet, either here or in the United States. The enemy has attacked with an audacity which may spring from recklessness but which may also spring from a conviction of strength. The ordeal to which the English-speaking world and our heroic Russian allies are being exposed will certainly be hard, especially at the outset and will probably be long. Yet, when we look around us over the sombre panorama of the world, we have no reason to doubt the justice of our cause, or that our strength and willpower will be sufficient to sustain it. We have at least four-fifths of the population of the Globe upon our side and we are responsible for their safety and their future. In the past we had a light which flickered; in the present we have a light which flames; and in the future there will be a light which shines over all land and sea."

LIBYAN OFFENSIVE



, No. 154 Copies 2100

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DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER GERMANY AND ENGLAND

7th Dec.—A strong force of Royal Air Force bombers raids Western Germany, the chief objective being Aachen.

Some civilians are killed in an enemy raid on a place in Eastern England.

8th Dec.—The Royal Air Force, in the course of sweeps over Northern France, attacks factories and aerodromes.

9th Dec.—Places in the coastal districts of North-East England are bombed by the Germans but damage is nowhere extensive.

11th Dec.—Docks at Emden in Germany and an aerodrome in Holland are bombed by the Royal Air Force.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

5th Dec.—The tempo of activity in Libya quickens, the Indians attacking enemy positions near Bir el Gobi successfully. The Royal Air Force bombs Calabria.

6th Dec.—The British complete the capture of El Duda; many prisoners are captured and 22 enemy planes shot down in air combats in Libya.

7th Dec.—The Royal Air Force raids Naples and the Libyan bases of Derna and Benghazi.

8th Dec.—The British re-capture Sidi Rezegh. Fresh battle is joined with the German forces, an Indian division engaging General Rommel's armoured divisions.

9th Dec.—The eastern half of the Tobruk perimeter is cleared of enemy tank forces, which withdraw after a series of running fights. British and South African aircraft raid Tripoli, Castel Benito, Derna, etc.

10th Dec.—The British Imperial Forces occupy El Adem.

11th Dec.—It is announced that Major-General Ritchie has taken over command of the Eighth Army in Libya from Gen. Cunningham.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

5th Dec.—The United States House of Representatives passes the Bill for an appropriation of 8,244 million dollars under the Lease-Lend Act.

6th Dec.—Col. Knox, United States Secretary to the Navy, says that the naval construction programme is one year ahead of schedule.

7th Dec.—President Roosevelt addresses an appeal to the Emperor of Japan to help in preserving peace in the Pacific.

8th Dec.—The United States Congress approves President Roosevelt's request to declare war on Japan.

9th Dec.—The Pacific Coast of North America is blacked out as air raid alarms—mostly false—are sounded there and in New York.

11th Dec.—The United States Congress votes for war against Germany and Italy and passes a Bill to enable American expeditionary forces to be sent abroad.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

5th Dec.—Soviet forces launch counter-attacks in the Klin, Volokolamsk and Tula sub-sectors of the Moscow front. In the south, the Russians break through the German defences at the approaches to Taganrog and take the mining town of Matveyev in the Donetz Basin.

6th Dec.—Many German positions are captured in the Soviet counter-offensive at Kalinin, north of Moscow. The Russians re-take Kuibyshevo, on the eastern bank of the Miuss river which runs into the Sea of Azov.

Great Britain declares war on Finland as the latter has refused to cry halt to aggressive operations against Russia.

7th Dec.—A German offensive in the centre of the Don Basin is repulsed.

8th Dec.—The Germans are ejected from the strategic Tula-Serpukhov main road to Moscow. The Germans are credited with the idea of stopping their attempt to take Moscow this winter.

9th Dec.—The Russians re-capture Tikhvin in the Leningrad sector, force back the Germans in the Tula region of the Moscow front and continue to press back the Germans on the southern front along the shore of the Sea of Azov.

10th Dec.—The Russians re-capture Elets in the Moscow sector.

11th Dec.—Tens of villages are captured by the Russians beyond Tikhvin.

THE BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, SYRIA, ETC.

6th Dec.—Great Britain declares war on the Axis satellites, Hungary and Rumania, who have refused to stop aggressive operations against Russia.

9th Dec.—An Ankara message reports that Turkey will remain neutral in the Pacific war.

SHIPPING

5th Dec.—The Royal Air Force makes successful attacks on enemy shipping off the north coast of France.

6th Dec.—The British cruiser *Dorsetshire* sinks a German commerce raider of about 10,000 tons in the South Atlantic.

7th Dec.—The United States Navy Department takes into protective custody Finnish merchant-ships in American waters.

THE FAR EAST

6th Dec.—An authoritative statement issued in Melbourne warns Tokyo that "we are fully alive to the Japanese threat."

Japanese planes raid Lu Shih, 400 miles north-east of Chungking.

7th Dec.—The United States State Department reveals that more Japanese troops are being despatched to Indo-China.

Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State, exposes Japan as being "infamously false and fraudulent in her recent professions of a desire for peace."

8th Dec.—Japan strikes without warning on American bases in the Pacific, attempts to invade Malaya and Hongkong and to bomb Singapore. Thailand, after resisting for 5½ hours, permits the passage of Japanese troops.

Great Britain and the Commonwealth and the Netherlands as well as the United States of America take up Japan's challenge. Mr. Churchill announces in Parliament the British decision to declare war on Japan.

9th Dec.—Severe fighting is reported in North Malaya as well as in the Thailand border. A Japanese attempt to land in North Borneo is beaten off. The Hongkong garrison beats off the Japanese. Air-raids on Manila are reported.

China declares war on Japan, Germany and Italy.

10th Dec.—The British batteships *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* are sunk by air attacks off Northern Malaya. Admiral Phillips is missing, but over 2,300 sailors are saved.

The Japanese land at points in the Philippines but lose troop-transports, the American Air Force striking hard.

Heavy fighting is reported in North Malaya.

Chinese forces threaten the rear of Japanese troops attacking Hongkong, where British and Indian divisions resist the Japanese.

11th Dec.—The Japanese battleship *Haruna* is sunk by American bombers off the north coast of the Philippines.

VICHY AND OCCUPIED FRANCE

5th Dec.—A German officer is shot at in Paris.

9th Dec.—Five more Governments recognize Free France, viz., the Greek, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Yugoslav and Norwegian Governments. Free France has declared war on Japan.

OTHER OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

5th Dec.—The Moscow Radio says that the Serbian army now fighting the Germans in Yugoslavia consists of five fully trained divisions under the command of General Mikhailovitch.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

6th Dec.—President Batista asks the Cuban Congress to declare a State of Emergency and grant the Cabinet extraordinary powers.

The United States of America enters into an agreement with Bolivia, who will get help under the Lease-Lend Act for strengthening her defences as part of hemispheric defence.

8th Dec.—Most of the Latin American countries declare war on Japan.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Information Officer and Special Press Adviser, Madras.]

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